

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

IO-06 EB-04 NEA-07 PRS-01 EUR-08 DHA-01 L-01

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R 240255Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7378

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

USUN NEW YORK 4006

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 1224

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SN, CD

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CAMBODIAN DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER TO SINGAPORE

1. I ESCORTED VISITING U.S. PROFESSOR FRITZ STERN IN
CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM MARCH 23, AND BEFORE
LAUNCHING INTO DISCUSSION OF RAJA'S PERCEPTIONS AS SOUTH-
EAST ASIAN OF CURRENT SITUATION IN EUROPE (PROFESSOR
STERN'S PARTICULAR FOCUS OF INTEREST), I TOOK OPPORTUNITY

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OF ASKING RAJA FOR ANY COMMENTS HE CARED TO GIVE ME
CONCERNING VISIT TO SINGAPORE OF IENG SARY, CAMBODIAN
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER. RAJA RESPONDED ALONG FOLLOW-
ING LINES:

2. PURPOSE OF IENG SARY VISIT, AS RAJA SAW IT, WAS
TO EMPHASIZE POINT THAT CAMBODIA IS NOT A MEMBER OF

ANY ALLIANCE OR OF ANY ASSOCIATION. IENG SARY MADE THIS CLEAR REPEATEDLY IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SINGAPORE OFFICIALS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT CAMBODIA DID NOT WISH TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH INDO-CHINA OR WITH OTHER INDO-CHINA COUNTRIES, BUT WANTED TO BE REGARDED AS AN INDEPENDENT ENTITY IN ITW OWN RIGHT. AS FAR AS ASEAN WAS CONCERNED, IT WOULD MAINTAIN RELATIONS WITH EACH MEMBER STATE ON A BILATERAL BASIS BUT NOT BECOME PART OF THE ORGANIZATION.

3. SINGAPOREANS GAINED IMPRESSION THAT CAMBODIAN POLICY IS DISTINCTLY ANTI-SOVIET BUT PRO-PEKING. CHINESE HELP WAS APPRECIATED, BUT SOVIET AID WAS BEING RESISTED ON GROUNDS THAT STRINGS MIGHT BE ATTACHED. IENG SARY HAD MENTIONED THAT "A CERTAIN COUNTRY" HAD SENT AMMUNITION DURING THE WAR IN EXCHANGE FOR 50,000 TONS OF RICE, BUT THAT THIS HELP HAD ARRIVED ONLY AFTER THE FIGHTING HAD STOPPED. PAYMENT OF RICE HAD TO CONTINUE, HOWEVER. ACTUALLY, ON SCORE OF AID, IENG SARY TOOK LINE THAT CAMBODIA WANTED TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT AND NOT DEPENDENT ON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.

4. AS FAR AS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. WERE CONCERNED, IENG SARY INDICATED THAT CAMBODIA WAS WILLING TO FORGET THE PAST. HOWEVER, IN LINE WITH PARA 2 ABOVE HE CONVEYED IMPRESSION TO SINGAPOREANS THAT ANY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE U.S. WOULD HAVE TO BE OUTSIDE CONTEXT OF U.S. TALKS WITH OTHER INDO-CHINA COUNTRIES AND ON ISSUES WHICH DID NOT RELATE DIRECTLY TO U.S. AREAS OF CONCERN
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WITH THESE TWO COUNTRIES. SINGAPOEANS INFERRED THAT IT WAS PROBABLY IN THIS LIGHT THAT CAMBODIANS DID NOT RESPOND TO U.S. OVERTURES TO SEND WOODCOCK MISSION TO PHNOM PENH. RAJA SURMISED THAT U.S. SHOULD, IF IT DESIRED TO APPROACH CAMBODIA, DO SO ON BASIS OF IMPROVING RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND NOT ON SUBJECT OF MIAS.

5. IENG SARY DID NOT IMPRESS THE SINGAPOREANS AS BEING A DEDICATED MARXIST; IN FACT, THEY FOUND IT "STRANGE" THAT HE HAD ACTUALLY RAISED RHETORICAL QUESTION OF "WHAT IS MARXISM-LENINISM?" THEY NOW TEND TO REGARD CAMBODIA AS A RADICAL, AGRARIAN-SOCIALIST STATE IN A LESS-ADVANCED STATE OF DEVELOPMENT THAN BURMA.

6. IENG SARY DID NOT RAISE MATTER OF ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL SINGAPORE-CAMBODIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS (WHICH SINGAPORE HAD OFFERED TO CAMBODIA SOME TIME AGO). ON THE OTHER HAND, IENG SARY WAS INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING

CAMBODIAN TRADE OFFICE IN SINGAPORE ON GROUNDS THAT THE TWO NATIONS' ECONOMIES ARE COMPLEMENTARY AND THAT EACH HAS SOMETHING TO OFFER TO THE OTHER. FOR EXAMPLE, SINGAPORE WOULD PROVIDE A MARKET FOR CAMBODIAN RICE, TIMBER AND FISH WHILE SINGAPORE COULD EXPORT LIGHT MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS INCLUDING ELECTRICAL GENERATORS, PUMPS, AND DIESEL ENGINES TO CAMBODIA. RAJA DID NOT STATE HOW SOON HE EXPECTS CAMBODIAN TRADE OFFICE TO BE OPENED IN SINGAPORE.
HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

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